Uranium mines to private sector

1798. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give Uranium mines to the private sector for mining and processing;

(b) if so, the mines which Government propose to privatize and the reasons therefor;

(c) for how many years this contract would be given and the quantity they would process;

(d) whom they would sell the finished Uranium; and

(e) how Government would ensure safety in the Uranium processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No policy decision has yet been taken in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

PPP model for exploration of Uranium Oxide

1799. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has an established Uranium oxide reserve of 1,17,800 metric tonnes;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to have a Private Public Partnership (PPP) model for exploration and exploitation of Uranium for domestic use particularly with the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far to set up/operate viable projects in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for

Exploration and Research, a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has identified 1,03,730 tonnes of Uranium Resources (U308).

(b) to (d) The possibility of a suitably structured Private Public Partnership (PPP) with Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) for exploitation of Uranium is under consideration. However, no decision has been taken on the same.

Review of availability of Uranium

1800. SMT. SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate a complete review of the availability of Uranium to fuel its nuclear power plants in the wake of the successful culmination of the Indo-US agreement for peaceful use of nuclear power;

(b) whether India is likely to acquire economically viable Uranium deposits abroad to exploit them for peaceful domestic use, apart from setting up new Uranium exploration and extraction projects in six States; and

(c) whether these proposals were contained in a presentation by the Department of Atomic Energy to the Committee of Secretaries in December, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government periodically reviews the availability of Uranium to fuel its nuclear power plants. This is an ongoing exercise and is independent of the Indo-US nuclear agreement.

(b) No decision has been taken with regard to acquisition of Uranium deposits abroad.

(c) No, Sir. Strategies for speeding up further exploration and mining of Uranium were presented by the Department of Atomic Energy to the Committee of Secretaries.